

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Official Action mailed July 10, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 1-40, rejected claims 41 and 43 and objected to claim 42 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 41). The Examiner stated, however, that claim 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 41.

Applicants have canceled claims 41 and 43 without prejudice to their rights to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application. In addition, Applicants have rewritten claim 42 as an independent claim to include all of the limitations of claims 41 and 42. Claims 15, 16, 27, 29, 30, 32, 37 and 38 also have been amended to correct typographical errors and other informalities. Applicants also have amended several paragraphs of the specification to correct typographical errors and informalities.

This application, therefore, now is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the timely issuance of a notice of allowance. If for any reason, however, the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account Number 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 22, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By Arnold B. Dompieri
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